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Pay Day in the West

For two years the farmers in the Middle West have been unable to get for their products anything like what they were worth. But instead of selling at a loss or, as some fantastic theorists advised them, using their corn for fuel, they turned their corncribs into savings banks and awaited a better day.

The better day has come. With corn at 62 cents a bushel on the ear, and worth even more when transmuted into hogs and steers on the hoof, the Middle Western farmer is again coming into his own. The same intelligence that led him to cling to his corn will now lead him to buy tractors, agricultural implements, better stock and, of course, pianos and phonographs with the money he is now receiving. The modern agriculturist believes in the country and in the future. He wants to be ready to supply the demand that grows with population.

The money paid for corn and hogs and other farm products will go immediately into general circulation—in the East as well as in the West. It will turn the wheels of factories and mills long idle. It will put men to work who have been for years without steady employment. It will, in brief, do more to restore normalcy than all the business-booming laws Congress and the legislatures of forty-eight states could pass.

Prosperity in the Middle West is the most reassuring among many indications of the return of general prosperity. The public reads of 594 more companies incorporated in New York this year than last and wonders how many of them will continue in business. It reads of 641 per cent increase in postal receipts in February and sees only intangible figures. It learns that steel mills are operated at 65 per cent of their capacity and thinks sadly of the 35 per cent still idle.

But when it discovers that wealth is again springing from the source of wealth it brightens perceptibly and forgets to croak.

What this country has lacked for two years is confidence. The news from the West will go far toward supplying this lack. Prosperity that is founded on production is substantial. Pay day in the Middle West means more pay days in the South, the East and the Far West. It is a fundamental business condition. The tidings of it is the best news that the country has had for two rather uneasy years.

The Fordney Bubble

Chairman Fordney and other House leaders have been talking about rushing through the bank loan bonus bill in an innocent faith that the President, despite what he has said to the contrary, is not opposed to it. Secretary Mellon's letter makes short work of that illusion. In the view of the President's responsible financial adviser the new bonus bill draft is even more objectionable than the preceding drafts, which contemplated payment of bonuses through Treasury bond issues or taxation.

The bonus advocates in Congress are averse to levying new taxes or to floating more bonds. They would like to seem to give the soldiers adjusted compensation without giving it in such a way that the country would feel it. The gesture of payment is what they value, for they are looking for a *quid pro quo* in votes. The bank loan, or "paw-brokers' draft," suited them exactly, since it enabled Congress to claim the soldiers' gratitude while deferring any immediate settlement in cash. On this basis the public was to be told that no taxes or bond issues would be necessary and that payment would somehow later take care of itself.

Mr. Mellon has curtly punctured this false pretense. He says: "It is impossible to avoid the cost if a bonus is to be adopted." The country must pay eventually. Moreover, this particular attempt to avoid or postpone settlement would have the extra disadvantages of

piling up more frozen bank loans and re-inflating the currency. It would be far better, the Secretary points out, to borrow directly now than to dodge borrowing at the expense of the banking system and government credit.

There is only one practicable way in which the cost of a bonus can be met. That is through a sales tax. But those who would have to pay a sales tax don't care to have the bonus financed that way, and Congress is afraid to impose such a tax. The device which the Ways and Means Committee has been recently nursing is a mere vote-stalling device. It is bonus legislation in the interest of Congressmen trying to mend their fences for next fall.

The Right Way

Appropriating enough money to enable the authorities to prosecute bucketshop proprietors will be more effective than passing "blue sky" laws. The efficiency of that sort of legislation has never been proved. Opposition to it in this particular case, particularly that of the Bar Association, would have resulted in its defeat.

The important thing in the present situation is to put in jail the men who have cheated credulous customers, and to keep them there so long that their example will be a lesson to others who might otherwise be tempted to employ the same methods.

There is already abundant law to punish thievery of this sort. Money was needed, however, to secure the evidence necessary for conviction. In supplying it the Legislature has done a good job.

The Kansas Court

The Supreme Court has refused to review a decision of the Kansas Supreme Court sustaining the constitutionality of the Kansas Court of Industrial Relations. This latter tribunal punished Alexander Howat for contempt when, as head of the Kansas coal miners' union, he declined to recognize court findings. The power of a state to establish courts of industrial relations of the Kansas type is now put beyond question.

Kansas is a state little troubled with labor disputes. The unions are not strong or widely organized. Public opinion deprecates industrial strife and wants to see labor quarrels composed judicially. The good of the community is held to take precedence of the claims and interests of pushing minorities.

Such a system of appeasement could be introduced only with great difficulty in the populous industrial states. Tradition and habit are against it. The theory of minority latitude and self-interest is strongly entrenched. The East is probably far from educated up to court settlements of strikes and lockouts. Kansas goes her own way, however. She is the parent of the idea of which the Court of Industrial Relations is the symbol. She is proud of its work. Credit is due her for her willingness to be a pioneer and to conduct a political experiment station and laboratory from whose experiments the whole country is at liberty to draw instruction.

The Book Shortage

That the demand for books is ever growing is the conclusion reached from consideration of the annual report of the Public Library. There was an increase of 24 per cent in the demand in 1921 over that of 1920, the number of volumes lent for home use during the year just concluded being 10,226,366.

There has been no corresponding increase in the funds available for the upkeep of the library. This has been particularly true in the branch libraries throughout the city, from which most of the lent volumes were given out. These branches have been hard put to it to meet the demand for the English classics—Dickens, Thackeray, Scott and others generally classed as "standard authors"—for while the modern best sellers have been popular they have not equaled the old-timers. It is an encouraging sign that in those districts most thickly populated by foreign elements the call for the best English language classics has been greatest. As a result it has been necessary to keep on the shelves thousands of volumes which under proper conditions would have been discarded as worn out. There is little prospect, unless new appropriations are obtained, of remedying this situation during the coming year.

The central reference library, on Forty-second Street, is also suffering to such an extent from a lack of funds that the principal worry of the book purchasers is what not to buy rather than what to buy. Compared with the Library of Congress in Washington, which has an infinitely smaller proportion of readers than the New York library, the available funds are only about one-third as large. Besides this, the New York library has not the advantage of receiving two free copies of every newly copyrighted book printed in the United States, as has the Library of Congress.

The shortage of the Public Library is becoming a serious problem. Unfortunately it is one which grows worse in direct proportion to the demand for the library's services.

Just as of the making of books there is no end, so, also, there seems to be no end to the demand for them.

Authority Out of Bounds

The Transit Commission's suggestion that people stop using the subway in rush hours seems a trifle ill-judged. The idea that women's mania for shopping is such as to cause them to flock into the subways in rush hours is hardly sound. The vast majority of women have to shop when they can. If the only hours when they can get away from household duties coincide with subway rush hours they must submit to the discomforts of travel at that time. Nobody, not even a tired business man, would ride in the subway between 7 and 9 in the morning or 5 and 7 in the evening if he could help it.

Women, especially, may be trusted to keep out of that turmoil whenever it is possible. The Transit Commission is doubtless doing its best to end rush conditions. It has the sympathy of the public in this task. But the public cannot assist it by keeping out of the subway, much as it would like to do so.

Irish Free State or Ruin

If Cork is with Michael Collins for the Irish Free State the outcome is pretty well assured, for the city of Terence MacSwiney holds the rabidest of the irreconcilables. Hoodlums would have kept the Irish leader from speaking on Sunday if the great majority of the Cork crowd, including 3,000 ex-soldiers, had not been on his side. The attempt to "razz" him went beyond fair bounds, but Collins faced the music and appears to have had all the better of the lively skirmish.

Collins says he does not know what De Valera and his crew are trying to do except to stir up trouble. Nor does anybody else know. And Ireland has had 700 years of trouble. It is a queer sort of patriotism that, by rejection of independent dominion rule, would plunge Ireland straight into more distressful days than even she has ever known.

Arthur Griffith at Dundalk told the people that the Anglo-Irish treaty made Ireland a nation among European nations and mistress of her own house, and that there was no alternative to the treaty but ruin. That is the situation as it appears to the best friends of Ireland in America. Talk with whom you will outside of the die-hard coterie that would rather keep on fighting Britain—a few thousand miles off—than see Ireland free, you will find the sentiment for the Irish Free State overwhelming. Rejection of the treaty would find no sympathy here; it would be regarded as an act of lunacy.

The Impiicable Brady

We should think that in merely suggesting life imprisonment for producers of questionable plays Mr. W. A. Brady would be astonished at his own moderation. After hearing his denunciation of these colleagues of his it might well be inferred that nothing short of the electric chair would satisfy him as fitting their crime.

The Tribune does not condone or encourage immoral drama. It does not in the least agree with Mr. Channing Pollock that a censorship designed to prevent immoral drama would "destroy the finest thing in the theater." If some of the indecency now on the stage constitutes the finest thing in the theater it is time for something less fine.

However, it is fortunate for all producers that they are not left to the tender mercies of Mr. Brady. According to the recent estimate of the Rev. Dr. John Haynes Holmes there are ten unfit plays in New York to-day. Adopting Mr. Brady's suggestion the District Attorney would have to send ten managers to Sing Sing, already overcrowded with highwaymen and other criminals.

Perhaps by counsel and conference some better method of cleaning up the drama can be found than either censorship or life imprisonment. If it is not found by the managers it will be time to try censorship as a remedy. That failing, life imprisonment might be experimented with. But we would go no further. Somebody ought to reason with Mr. Brady before he begins insisting on capital punishment.

The Extra Point in Football

Football reforms, more frequent of recent years, long overlooked the goal kicked after a touchdown. It was generally recognized as placing an unwarranted premium on the prowess of a single individual.

of presenting a feeble defensive, will have a greater chance of blocking a kick or of stopping a play. All of this tends to make this extra point a matter of genuine contest, and, in the case of a tied score, offers the opportunity for a vigorous fight, which should be more satisfactory from the point of view of the teams.

Doing away with the old-fashioned goal will also make the game more attractive for the spectators. The old place kick for goal was too much in the nature of an anticlimax. In making success difficult the new rule promises greater excitement. In making the game fairer it promises better sport.

Mothers' Federal Aid

Not Analogous to National Defense, Says Maryland Spokesman.

To the Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: It seems to me that Mrs. Florence Kelley's arguments in her letter to The Tribune regarding the Sheppard-Towner act are of the same species sort that are used by those who advocate "putting mothers on the government pay roll" and making "children the wards of the state." There can be no analogy between the Federal government's concern with the national defense and interstate matters and those questions that concern the care of mothers and babies. The Constitution gives the Federal government power to control the former, but by no stretch of the imagination can the "welfare clause" be made to include the latter, which must depend on an enlightened public interest in each community and state. The Congressmen who have so far forgotten their oath to support the Constitution in regard to maintaining these rights reserved to the states will have to be reminded of their lapse by their constituents at the next election.

The leaders in Maryland in the care of mothers and children are against the Sheppard-Towner act. Dr. John Howland, physician in chief of the pediatric department of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, has said: "I am unwilling to believe that such emergency exists as has been claimed regarding maternal care in this country, and I am quite sure from considerable experience with statistics that there is no basis for the statement that the United States stands seven-tenths in maternal death rate. Even civilized countries have not sufficient accurate statistics to enable any one to make a definite statement such as this."

"I do not believe that the way to improve health matters in states, except those that have a distinctly national or interstate application, is by Federal supervision or control."

Since Maryland is a "sovereign state" the fact that Virginia has accepted the Sheppard-Towner act should not carry any weight with a courageous and independent Legislature that is capable of working out its own problems.

CORNELIA A. GIBBS,
Secretary Woman's Constitutional League of Maryland,
Baltimore, Md., March 11, 1922.

The "Flapper"

To the Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: In response to the letter of "The Mother of a Flapper" let me say a word. I am a young mother of a seven-year-old girl. I am not too old to be "soured by time," nor do I think I was unintelligent when I was at the flapper stage, as I was a school teacher at nineteen.

I admit that, due perhaps to the wider scope of women's activities and the effects of the World War, the last ten years have seen a definite metamorphosis in the privileges and point of view of the girl of from fifteen to eighteen. There seems to be a decided lack of the "ladylike" demeanor that fitted girls of ten years ago.

The mothers seem to aid in the inane costume that is termed "collegiate." Perhaps it is "cute" to see those flapping galoshes left open at the top. They might look neat if they were properly fastened. Perhaps that "pine-apple bob" is just too sweet. It would be better if it were adorned by a normal headgear. Why the terrific angle of those flapper hats, or the collegiate bonnet, as it is called? Why the awfulness of the angle of that quiff? Why the scarf inside the coat? Why the coat open in pneumonia-producing weather? And why must the feet drag? I'm told that is all part of the collegiate attire.

If this new flapper is more intelligent than the ingénue of the last decade why doesn't she seek originality? Why does she persist in being a sheep that follows blindly the leader?

This "emancipation" between the girls and boys may be all right, but the sexes could stand a little more exchange of refined courtesies.

MRS. E. L.
New York, March 9, 1922.

The Disabled First

To the Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: In the discussion about the soldiers' bonus some people have forgotten the brave men who have paid the price of victory and are unable to work because of injuries received in the war. They forget that these men are poor, and even if they should get well they would have no money to make a fresh start.

Many of the soldiers who are sick with tuberculosis could be cured if they could be sent to a dry climate, but unfortunately a large number of these men do not have enough money to take them to the right place. Would it not be best for the people of the United States to give these nearly forgotten heroes enough money so that they can get well and make a new start in business?

The Tower

BALLADE OF A CINARASCAL
"Non sum qualem eram bonum sub regno Cinarum."—Horace.

THOUGH your blandishments often recall
The dear things I have done in my prime,
I've forsaken fond Cinara's hall;
I have sown my wild oats in my time.
So I'd faithfully set down in rhyme
The old rapturas I once used to win,
But I'm old and grown sour as lime,
For I ain't what I used to be, Cin!

When I dwell in your courts as a thrall,
And enjoyed the first fruits of your clime,
I would watch the red rose petals fall;
I have sown my wild oats in my time.
From the echoes of youth's pantomime,
Where both angels and fools would rush in,
The remembrance of you is sublime,
But I ain't what I used to be, Cin!

And on an octagonal Wall
Street controller afford a lone dime
For a rose to fling down at them all?
I have sown my wild oats in my time.
Age's ivy has started to climb,
And your wing is converted to gin;
For for kisses I can't find a rhyme,
For I ain't what I used to be, Cin!

L'Envoi
Dearest spouse, do you think it a crime
I have sown my wild oats in my time?
Now, I've made several millions in tin,
But I ain't what I used to be, Cin!
MERC.

It's all we can do to work to-day for
worrying whether the strike in South
Africa isn't going to boost the price
of diamonds.

Mrs. Asquith complains because crime
stories interfere with her utterances
getting into print. There's this much
to say for the daily tales of iniquity:
The more there are of them the fewer
can be printed about William H. Anderson and John Roach Straton.

Peeping Tom
F. E. V.—I don't see where this guy
Bob B. has got any license to be stuck
on himself just because he saw a young
woman with bare ears on Fifth Avenue.
The other day, on Fifth Avenue, I saw
a young woman with skirts so long
that she held them up with her right
hand to keep them out of the mud.
And she was wearing a white cotton under-
skirt with an embroidered hem. I'll
make an affidavit to this effect if you
think it's necessary. EDDI.

Fashions are coming to such a pass
that every respectably dressed woman
lays herself open to the suspicion of im-
morality.

On a day like yesterday you sit
around glassy-eyed and wonder feebly:
Where you put your straw hat;
If tennis racquets are any cheaper;
How one makes back home-brew;
Where there's a trout stream with
trout in it;
Why you chose this way of making a
living.

THE VERNAL URGE
Labor is leathard, I'm wishful that I
Were a loud traffic cop cloistered on
high.
Nothing to do but to gaze on the scene
And turn on at intervals lights red and
green.

"On some of these March days," says
S. M. C. bitterly, "it seems as if winter
has forgotten something and had come
back to get it."

Three Would Be Much Too Many
F. E. V.—Just two notions:
1. That ghost seems Antigonishitic.
2. Going to write a letter to the pa-
pers and sign it "Pro Bonus Publico."
Scuseitplease. MORAN.

It's W. A. Jr.'s conviction that Dr.
Prince has caught a cold sitting up for
the ghost. In witness whereof he sub-
mits the following from Friday's
Tribune:
Dr. Prince in a statement said:
"If we get nothing to-night we shall
endeavor to alter conditions at sea if they
will be more successful."

Bavaria is trembling on the verge of
returning to monarchical government.
Almost any time now we can expect
a demand from Prussia for a place in
the sun followed by solemn announce-
ments by various authorities that there
never will be another great war.

"Wonder," says Uncle Abimelech Bo-
gardus, of Proakness, N. J., "if these
New York cops who want a raise in pay
would be satisfied if somebody put a
bounty on crooks."

FROSTY TWILIGHT
Against the lilac of the sky
Gray branches delicately press
In lacelike webs of loveliness.
Their myriad tiny finger tips
Most sensitively brush the lips
Of dusk, with nerves attuned to feel
Beauty beyond what eyes reveal.
The crescent surface of the moon,
Sun's echo, fading fast and soon—
All twilight's silver symphony
Their touch explores so reverently
That trees upon the misty hill
Exalted stand, and hushed, and still.

There must be secret things that
such
As these alone may faintly touch.
There must be wonder in the air
Only for trees, and wings, and
prayer. HILDA MORRIS.

Day by day, India's passive resistance
grows to be more and more like Ire-
land's peace.

When Kipling spoke of "our far-flung
battle line" he seems to have uttered
two octavo volumes and an appendix.

Perhaps the whole trouble with the
British Empire is that the sun's getting
tired and trying to find a place to set.
F. F. V.



Spreading Soviet Virus

Third Internationale Instructions for Communist Propaganda in the British and French Armies and Navies

(From The London Morning Post)

The Third Internationale has issued from Moscow certain instructions to its agents abroad dealing especially with the fostering of Communist propaganda in the navies and armies of the western powers. The document is signed by Zinovieff, president of the central executive committee of the Third Internationale; by Katanyan, chief of the propaganda section, and by Arnold, the secretary.

The document, which is addressed to the Bureau of the Western European Secretariat for Propaganda, points out that every endeavor should be made to bring Communist teaching to bear on the youth of the world, as the old ground has hardly proved fruitful. Again, the leaders of the labor movement are, it is said, showing far too great a tendency to give in to "world capitalism," and their lost faith in world revolution is to be ascribed largely to the opportunities that have been missed in the past of getting a hold over the younger generation. The document then comes to its main point:

This state of affairs has long emphasized the necessity of paying special attention to the armies and navies of the capitalist countries, and by intensive and increased activities, utilizing the experience gained in the demoralization and decomposition of the Russian White Guard armies, to achieve the same state of affairs and introduce into the ranks of the European capitalist armies Red units which would demoralize the army as a whole and induce it to turn its bayonets against the capitalist classes.

Lower Deck Activities
After this frank avowal the document goes into detail of the propaganda measures which it is thought are likely to meet with most success:

- (1) All seamen—in consequence of their mode and trend of life—are devoid of a specific nationalist ideology and therefore are internationalists in substance.
- (2) Service conditions for seamen in submarines, cruisers, and in all vessels on foreign service in general, are very severe; the men get little rest or leisure, they are badly fed and are constantly risking their lives, and are constantly risking their lives.
- (3) Peace has not brought to sailors the moral satisfaction and rest which they expected, but, on the contrary, is threatening them with a new gigantic naval war.
- (4) Finally, it must also be remembered that sailors are less inclined than any one else to adhere to discipline, and are always very prone to insubordination. In this respect the examples of the great Russian October revolution, in which Kronstadt and the Baltic fleet played such a prominent part, and of the German revolution, practi-

An Impartial View
(From The Kansas City Times)
Mr. Hull, the chairman of the Democratic national committee, announces that after careful investigation he has been forced to the conclusion that the Republican Administration at Washington is a complete failure. This revelation from an absolutely neutral and impartial source cannot fail to be convincing to the Democrats.

More Truth Than Poetry

By James J. Montague

Easy Come, Easy Go!
Rothvogel built up a grocery trade
With the help of his kids and his wife;
At fifty he fancied the stake he had made
Would last him the rest of his life.
He'd handled molasses and sugar and soap
Till the sweat had bespangled his brow,
And therefore he took a delight in the hope
That things would be easier now.
But Rothvogel wasn't quite satisfied yet—
He wanted to make one last haul—
So he put all he had on a bucketshop bet—
And now he has nothing at all!

Cassidy carried the hod twenty years—
He started when still a young lad.
It wasn't exactly the king of careers,
But still it was all that he had.
He saved up a dollar or two now and then—
His needs were but trifling and few—
And counted his money again and again
When the day's occupation was through.
To knock off at sixty was Cassidy's plan.
But, alas, it was little avail,
For he trusted his cash to a bucketshop man
Who spent it—to keep out of jail.

Hardscrabble wrested his bread from the soil.
He rose every morning at dawn.
And put in his time at the hardest of toil
Till the last streak of daylight was gone.
He plowed and he harrowed and watered the stock.
The turkeys and chickens he fed.
He kept at his chores till eleven o'clock—
Then he wearily fell into bed.
At last, in the war time, when prices were high,
The wealth he'd been toiling for came.
It came—and it left, in the flash of an eye
When he tackled the bucketshop game!

Sufficient Grounds
It is rumored that Lloyd George is soon to divorce himself from British public life, his cause of action being non-support.

Much Too Much
The ex-Kaiser, appealed to to relieve the sufferings of Germany, sent them his photograph. Adversely merely hardens some people's hearts.

See Market Reports
We are informed by some of the newspapers that food prices are now down 20 per cent. This, however, is a theory and not a condition.

The Greatest Loss
(From The Pittsburgh Gazette-Times)
At Genoa Germany will recite losses as a reason for the Allies being beaten on her. We presume the loss of the war will be included.